

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated March 16, 2006, claims 1-45 are pending in the application. Claims 1-4, 10-14, 20-26, 29-34, 37, 41, 42, 44, and 45 are rejected. More particularly, claims 1-4, 10-14, 20, 25-26, 29-34, 37, 41-42, and 44-45 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) over US Publication 2003/0097439 to Strayer et al. ("Strayer"), and claims 21-24 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) over Strayer in view of US 6,850,491 to Firoui ("Firoui"). Applicant appreciatively acknowledges that the Examiner finds claims 5-9, 15-19, 27-28, 35-36, 38-40, and 43 include allowable subject matter.

Without addressing the merits of any of the rejections, Applicant amends claim 1 to include the features of dependent claim 8 and intervening base claim 3, and cancels claims 8 and 3. Since claim 8 was found to include allowable subject matter, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claim 1. Applicant also amends claim 11 to include the features of dependent claim 18 and intervening claim 13, and cancels claims 18 and 13. Since claim 18 was found to include allowable subject matter, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claim 11. Applicant similarly amends claim 21 to include subject matter found to be allowable, and therefore requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to this claim.

Applicant amends claim 33 to include the features of dependent claim 35 and intervening dependent claim 34, and cancels claims 34-35. Since claim 35 was found to include allowable subject matter, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claim 33. Applicant similarly amends claims 25 and 41 with the subject matter of cancelled claims 34-35, and therefore requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to these claims.

Claims 2, 4, 10-12, 14, 20, 22, 24, 26, 30-31, 37, and 42 depend, directly or indirectly, from the independent claims discussed above. Therefore, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to these claims.

Applicant also amends claims 4, 5, 14, 15, 23, 36 to address matters of form, and cancel claims 29 and 44-45 without prejudice.

Applicant adds new dependent claims 46-56. These new claims are supported in the specification and figures, and no new matter is added. Since these claims depend from allowable independent claims, Applicant submits that these claims are allowable.

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response other than as reflected on the enclosed Amendment Transmittal. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-1945, under Order No. BBNT-P02-369 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: June 16, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Edward A. Gordon

Registration No.: 54,130

ROPES & GRAY LLP

One International Place

Boston, Massachusetts 02110-2624

(617) 951-7000

(617) 951-7050 (Fax)

Attorneys/Agents For Applicant